

OFF  
THE  
CUFF  
FESTIVAL

## National Theatresports Championships come to Brisbane for the first time



Six states will compete for the title of Australia's best improvisers, when the 2011 Theatresports National Championships comes to the Brisbane Powerhouse on Saturday 1 October.

It's being presented as the climax of the Off the Cuff Festival, a three-day program of improvised theatre featuring companies from around Australia.

"The Theatresports Nationals is a hugely popular comedy event, and sells out its usual home, Sydney's Enmore Theatre," says festival director Wade Robinson.

"This is the first time it's being held outside Sydney in its seven-year history, and we're thrilled to bring it to Brisbane."

Victoria has won the coveted prize belt three times, New South Wales twice, and Western Australia once.

"Queensland has never won a Nationals title, and this year the state team will look to press its hometown advantage," says Mr Robinson.

"But they can expect a tough fight."

South Australia and the ACT competed for the first time in 2010, and Brisbane will be hosting the expanded six-team competition in 2011.

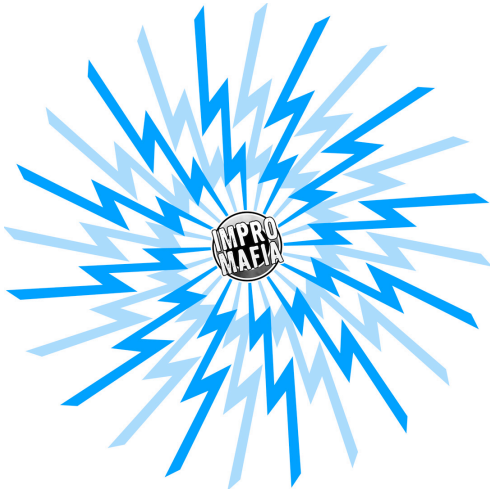
"It's an amazing experience, and gives Brisbane theatre goers a chance to see the best and funniest performers from around the country all in one night," says Mr Robinson.

The Theatresports National Championships will be hosted by Natalie Bochenski, senior journalist with 4BC/4BH radio. Natalie is herself an experienced improvised performer and MC, and is looking forward to the biggest night of the festival.

"I'm keen to show Brisbane audience just how amazing this comedic form can be."

The Championships and the Off the Cuff Festival are being presented by ImproMafia, Brisbane's premiere improvised comedy company.

For interviews, photo opportunities or other details, please email [festival@impromafia.com](mailto:festival@impromafia.com). You can also call Natalie Bochenski on 0418 728 425, or email her directly on [natalie@impromafia.com](mailto:natalie@impromafia.com).



## OFF THE CUFF FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse

### Thursday 29 September (from 7:30pm)

*Ultimate Board Game Unscripted (Impro Australia)* – Forget Farmville. Sydney’s best improvisers use your favourite board games to inspire scenes and characters.

*The Displaced (ImproACT)* – Our Canberra guests explore what it’s like for ordinary Australians to be asked to leave what they know. A vivid and genuine experience for the audience that shows the happiness, joy and relief of new beginnings.

*Prognosis: Death! (ImproMafia)* The staff of St Love Hospital must battle supernatural threats – and their own emotions – in this high-octane medical sci-fi melodrama. With schlock horror and scalpel-sharp wit, you’ll lose your heart, your mind... and possibly your kidneys.

### Friday 30 September (from 7:30pm)

*Agatha Holmes (ImproMafia)* – Britain’s best detective is on the case of murder most foul. The audience who decides the killer, the motive and the weapon – and it’s up to Agatha Holmes to solve the mystery.

*Stuck in the Middle (ImproMelbourne)* – A diabolical blend of improvisation and torture, this show forces one performer to remain onstage constantly, and respond to the beck and call of their fellow actors.

*In a New York Minute (Spontaneous Insanity)* – Lives are created, interwoven and forever altered in Perth’s gripping web of joy and tragedy. In a New York Minute, anything can change.

### Saturday 1 October (from 7:30pm)

The Theatresports Nationals is an annual competition that pits Australia’s best improvisers against each other. In 2011, Brisbane is hosting this battle royale for the first time. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT will all compete for the title of Australian Champions.

## Queensland Team for 2011 Theatresports Nationals

### Tom Dunstan

Tom is a father-of-two from Oxley, Brisbane. Tom has been improvising for over 15 years, and was Artistic Director of Impro Australia in the mid-2000s. Since returning to Brisbane to raise his family, Tom has been a regular with ImproMafia, performing at the Brisbane Arts Theatre and Albion Comedy Club. Tom has represented Queensland at the previous two TS Nationals. By day, he works as an IT professional.

### Amy Currie

Amy is an actor who took up improvisation after seeing ImproMafia's previous Off the Cuff Festival in 2008. Since becoming a core member of the company, she has been a regular in its Brisbane Arts Theatre shows, including "Prognosis: Death!" and "Agatha Holmes". Amy also starred in the Brisbane Arts Theatre's cult productions of John Birmingham's "He Died with a Felafel in His Hand" (2009) and "The Tasmanian Babes Fiasco" (2010); and she is a member of Brisbane sketch comedy group The Sexy Detective. She lives in Petrie Terrace.

### Dan Beeston

Dan has been improvising for over 12 years, and has performed with ImproMafia since it was founded in 2004. Dan is a regular at Brisbane Arts Theatre seasons such as "Prognosis: Death!" and "Fists of Fury". He performs regularly at the Albion Comedy Club, and is also developing his skills as an impro musician. Dan is a Moorooka-based graphic designer and website developer, whose skills are also utilised by ImproMafia in its unique posters and logos.



High-res images are available for download from the Off the Cuff Festival website:

[offthecuff.impromafia.com](http://offthecuff.impromafia.com)

For more information, contact Natalie on [natalie@impromafia.com](mailto:natalie@impromafia.com)